(a) the expenditure incurred by the House Keeping Section of the Ministry of Home Affairs on purchase of items from Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) from each of the three sources, separately, during the last five years;

(b) whether stationery items have also been purchased from NCCF, which is at a distance of 15 Kms. from office, instead of being purchased from nearby stores, i.e. Super Bazar/Kendriya Bhandar; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) According to the available information, the expenditure incurred by this Ministry on purchase of items from Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF during the last five years was as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Super Bazar	Kendriya Bhandar	NCCF
1994-95	0.84	105.99	54.15
1995-96	—	148.12	24.64
1996-97	0.35	155.04	43.79
1997-98	0.001	150.54	74.51
1998-99	0.07	144.39	146.36
Total	1.261	704.08	343.45

(b) and (c) The purchase of stationery items from NCCF is being made strictly in terms of the instructions issued by the Government which, inter alia, provide that Government Departments may make all local purchase of stationery and other items either from Kendriya Bhandar or Super Bazar or NCCF. Administrative decision to purchase particular items from either of the three sources depends on several factors, such as, availability of those items at a given point of time, comparative quality of the items, delivery period, etc. Both Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF deliver the purchased goods at the Ministry's store and the location of either of the two organisations is immaterial.

Declaring SSB as Para-Military Force

2209. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government to declare Special Security Bureau (SSB) as a para-military force; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the requirements for declaring a force as para-military force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Declaration of any force as an Armed Forces of the Union is done in consideration of the factors like its role, duties to be assigned, manner of functioning etc.

Separate State for Chhatisgarh

†2210. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had assured the people of Chhatisgarh at a public meeting in Bhilai, to give final shape to the creation of separate Chhatisgarh State by bringing a Bill in the first session of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons for not any action in this regard;

(c) by when the Bill in this regard would be brought; and

(d) by when the status of separate State is likely to be accorded to Chhatisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Prime Minister did refer in his public meetings to the early creation of a separate State of Chhatisgarh.

(c) to (d) The Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 1998, which had been introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 1998, lapsed with the dissolution of one 12th Lok Sabha. The procedure prescribed in article 8 of the Constitution of India is required to be followed afresh. The Bill providing for the creation of Chhatisgarh will be referred to one State Legislature shortly. Further necessary action will be taken on receipt of the State Legislature's view.

Modernisation of Madhya Pradesh Police

†2211. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the resources being provided to Madhya Pradesh, the largest State of the country, for modernisation of Police force and the amount provided by the Central Government during the current financial year;

(b) whether the said amount is sufficient; and

(c) if not, whether provision of more funds and resources, for carrying out the modernisation work, is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) 'Police' being a state Subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily the responsibility of the State

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.